

**National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee**  
**(NNICC)**

# **The NNICC Report** **1985-1986**

**The Supply of Illicit Drugs**  
**to the United States**  
**from Foreign and Domestic Sources**  
**in 1985 and 1986**  
**(with Near Term Projections)**

**June 1987**

## Developments in Source Countries - Southwest Asia

**Opium Production:** In Afghanistan, the 1985 and 1986 opium poppy harvests yielded considerably more opium than the abnormally small 1984 crop which was reduced by unfavorable weather conditions and disruptions caused by the war. The increases were primarily attributable to improved weather conditions and higher prices (the result of the small 1984 crop). Another contributing factor was the absence of military activity in the major growing areas. Afghanistan has no narcotics control program.

Figure 25

Opium Production -- Southwest Asia, 1983-1986  
(metric tons)

|             | 1983         | 1984         | 1985         | 1986           |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Afghanistan | 400-575      | 140-180      | 400-500      | 500-800*       |
| Iran        | 400-600      | 400-600      | 200-400      | 200-400        |
| Pakistan    | <u>45-60</u> | <u>40-50</u> | <u>40-70</u> | <u>140-160</u> |
| Total       | 845-1235     | 580-830      | 640-970      | 840-1360       |

\*Department of State estimate is 400-500, the figure published in the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, March 1987.

There was no narcotics control program in Iran; despite Iranian Government statements to the contrary, U.S. officials believe that 200-400 metric tons of opium were produced annually in 1985 and 1986.

Positive measures taken in Pakistan to reduce the illicit opium harvest in 1985 became increasingly effective in areas under government control. Paradoxically, the concentration of law enforcement activities in those areas, in combination with elevated prices, beneficial weather, and trafficker resistance, caused an increase in opium production in the semi-autonomous tribal areas in 1986 (see Figure 25).

Despite continuing efforts by the government to control the legitimate opium industry in India, illicit opium production increased. In addition to leakage from licit production, reports indicated the demand for opium was met from poppy cultivation in non-traditional areas.

Poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley reportedly increased in 1985 and again in 1986, to an estimated 4,000 hectares or more.

**Consumption:** The number of heroin addicts in Pakistan grew from virtually zero in 1980 to at least 300,000 in 1985, according to the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board. The heroin addict population continued to increase in 1986, reaching an estimated 400,000 to 500,000. Opium addicts also numbered in excess of 300,000 persons. Although awareness of and attention to the heroin problem by the public, the media, and the Government of Pakistan increased, treatment facilities continued to be inadequate and preventive education had not reached most of the schools. Some efforts, however, were made to train private physicians and social workers in drug abuse treatment.

Although India has a large opium-using population, heroin addiction, nearly unheard of only a few years ago, has increased. Authorities estimate a heroin addict population of approximately 500,000.

Drug use data for Iran and Afghanistan are difficult to obtain. Iran had an estimated 100,000 heroin addicts, and about 500,000 opium users. In Afghanistan, there were believed to be 100,000 to 125,000 chronic opium users, and a small but growing number of heroin smokers.

While opium use in Egypt was significant in 1985 and 1986, heroin use, considered insignificant before 1984, increased sharply in 1985 and remained at high levels in 1986.

**Laboratories/Refineries:** Heroin laboratories in Pakistan remained concentrated in the tribal areas of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), primarily the Khyber Agency. In 1985, six functioning refineries were seized by law enforcement officials; another 23 laboratories in the Khyber Agency, NWFP, were surrendered under governmental pressure. While the 1985 removals were significant, the number of laboratories probably increased in 1986 because the Governor of the NWFP and the Political Agent of the Khyber Agency were unwilling to use force against the laboratory operators.

Heroin laboratories also were located in Afghanistan and Iran. The principal area of laboratory activity in Afghanistan was located in Nangarhar Province, which adjoins Pakistan's NWFP. Lesser concentrations were found in Helmand Province in the south and near the Iranian border in the southwest. Heroin refined in these laboratories was usually exported. Iranian opiate refineries reportedly were

active in Kurdistan near the Turkish border, as well as in or around the cities of Tabriz and Zahedan.

During 1985 and 1986, clandestine heroin conversion continued on a moderate scale within India. Some of the refineries used raw opium gum or morphine base obtained in India for production into finished heroin. Heroin base for other Indian laboratories came from Pakistan and Afghanistan. Authorities seized two laboratories in 1985 and three in 1986.

It is likely that refineries in the Bekaa Valley and in the Beirut area of Lebanon processed locally produced opium as well as opiates from Southwest Asia. Reportedly, heroin refining declined in Turkey because of increased law enforcement and military activities in the southeastern part of the country, the traditional area of refining activity. Significant seizures of acetic anhydride in the area probably further decreased heroin production.

**Trafficking Trends:** Most of the opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan was exported to or through Pakistan, or to Iran, which continued to be a net importer of opiates. Heroin seizures in Pakistan decreased from approximately 5

metric tons in 1985 to an estimated 4 metric tons in 1986. Major Pakistani traffickers were active in Southwest Asia, the Persian Gulf, Europe, and North America.

Large amounts of heroin produced in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and, to a lesser extent, the Golden Triangle entered India. For example, 329 kilograms of heroin were seized in July 1985 which had entered India across the Rajasthan border from Sind, Pakistan on the backs of camels. This trend continued in 1986 during which there were six seizures of heroin between January and September totalling 2.1 metric tons which entered India across the border. One seizure, totalling 602 kilograms, is the largest heroin seizure ever recorded worldwide. The amount of heroin seized in the other five cases ranged from 100 kilograms to 472 kilograms. It is likely this heroin was destined for onward smuggling through India's airports and seaports to western markets, following a trend which developed rapidly over the last three years.

Turkey was used as a major transshipment center for opiates, primarily from Iran. These opiate products were then smuggled through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to Western Europe and/or the United States. Some Turkish opiates transited